

A SHORT
ACCOUNT
OF THE
Venereal Disease.

WITH

Observations on the *Nature, Symptoms,*
and *Cure*; and the bad Consequences that at-
tend by ill Management; with proper Ad-
monitions to such as do, or may labour un-
der this Misfortune.

Together with some Hints on the *Practical*
Scheme; his *Methods* and *Medicines* exposed;
and the gross Impositions therein detected.

To which is added,

A short Account of old *Gleets*, and other *Weak-*
nesses; and the Reason why they are so seldom
cured; with the *Author's* Method of *Cure*.

As also an Account of *Specificks*; the Use and
Abuse of the Name, and how it covers Ignorance
and a Cheat.

The Whole design'd for Publick Good.

By JOSEPH CAM, M. D.

L O N D O N :

Printed for, and Sold by G. Strahan against the *Royal-*
Exchange; W. Mears without *Temple-Bar*; C. King in
Westminster-Hall; T. Norris on *London-Bridge*; and
J. Baker against *Hatton-Garden* in *Holborn*, 1717.

Price stich'd 6 s.





TO THE
READER.



I may justly be expected, that I shou'd inform my Perusers what Title I claim to follow the Business I now profess ; this I shall do with so much more Inclination, as I have had Provocations given me by vile and designing Reptiles : I must then inform you, that about 30 Years ago, I was bound Apprentice to Mr. Ballard an Apothecary in the City of Worcester, where having improv'd myself for some Years, I was willing to endeavour at farther Advancement, and therefore took a Journey to London, and had the opportunity of seeing a Gentleman of the Faculty's private Practice for some
A 2 Years :

To the Reader.

Years: The Misfortunes my Family (which is not, I thank God, a mean one) then groan'd under, gave me too many Discouragements to struggle withall; and I am not ashamed to confess, that the Supplies I might have reasonably expected for setting up withall, were on a sudden despair'd of: Thus disappointed, I began to advertise, in order to support myself, by vending Remedies I was well assured would answer the Ends of the Patients who were pleased to apply: In some time, I began to be able to support myself, and got my Degree of Dr. of Physick; and altho' the Business I follow seems not to square with that Dignity, I begin to think it better to have rose from so low a Station to the Cap, than to dwindle from the Cap to that Station, as Tanner's Voucher has done: And since I have mentioned this Eternal Drum, give me Leave to relate to you what a Gentleman of my Acquaintance was pleased smilingly to say
of

To the Reader.

of this Person ; Sir, says he, this Tanner is, according to his own Account, the brightest Man of the Age ; he gives us Anatomical Accounts, without so much as having ever read any thing of the Matter ; he discovers Secrets in Chymistry without End, without so much as having burnt one Coal in pursuit of that Science ; But I believe after all, as a certain Monk (really skilful in this Pyrosophical Art) after search of somewhat, found out a Secret, which has since made the whole World groan under it (vulgarly call'd Gun-powder) so does this Pretender make Miscreants pay for being blown up : And Sir, after all, I am fully persuaded a **Library** may be deem'd a Complete one, tho' it did not harbour this most Excellent **Practical** Scheme, nor the most **Learned** New System. This Gentleman in short will, in a small time, make the World think very well of Physick. I would advise him to give us some **Learned** Pieces upon
Con-

To the Reader.

Consumptions, Dropfies, Barrenness, and some other very Common Diseases, and then Specificks and Non-pareils, will go off apace ; I the rather advise this, because he has in some measure pav'd the Road for that Project already ; for at the Seneca's-Head you have his Onania, with his Sugar Plums, which he first began with ; at the Wheat-Sheaf you have his Blisters, and his low pric'd Electuary, or rather his Guinea Specifick here for a Crown ; at Garway's, you have his Necklace, and his most Excellent Philosophical Essay ; at Mr. Cooper's in the Strand you have his most Excellent New System ; at the Rose Tavern you have his most Excellent Lip Salve, and Saffron Drops ; in Kingstreet, Westminster, you have his most Excellent Beautifying Cream ; now three or four Distempers more, may perhaps build him up a most excellent Purse ; and I desire he will not fail to give the World
to

To the Reader.

to understand, that they are enter'd in the Hall Book; and one Word of Advice I shall give him for his Favours towards me, that is, let him stick to his Function, or let him teach Short-Hand and breed up Canary-Birds, which are innocent Diversions, and will do no harm, (as may be perceived by his most excellent Treatises on Short-Hand and Canary-Birds,) but Physick is an edge Tool.

Thus the many and dismal Disasters, I have for upwards of twenty Years Practice, observ'd to attend the Unfortunate labouring under this Disease, occasion'd by ignorant and designing Men, has been the only Inducement to the following Sheets, in which I have given what Caution I can to my Readers to avoid for the future such gilded Baits, and duly consider with themselves before they trifle with so precious a thing as their Lives and Health, by dealing with these Toy Drugsters.

[And

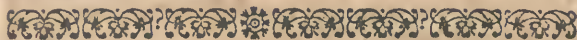
To the Reader.

And if any Person of Common Sense would but consider well with himself; his own Reason must inform him, 'tis impossible for any one Medicine in the World to answer the Character giv'n to this pretended Specifick; and if it wou'd, no need for hir'd Certificates, nor for the Author to conceal himself under the pretence of a Great Man, and spoiling his other Business; for the best Physician in the whole World, would not be backwards in owning himself the Author, nor value his other Practice, who wou'd undoubtedly get the greatest Estate ever got by Physick.





A Short
ACCOUNT
OF THE
Venereal Disease, &c.



CHAP. I.

Of the Disease in general.



HE Value each Person ought to put upon himself, shou'd make him so industrious, as to discover Fraud from Sincerity, Chicane from Truth, and Collusion from Good-will. I say, each Person ought to labour from his
B Infancy

Infancy to extricate himself from the Designs and Traps laid for him: But alas! we come to Maturity, we grow Old, and in some Affairs we are Blind, and continue so for ever. I know not, whether this Blindness be in any Concern more common, than it is in the Art of Physick; in this, Men pass Judgment by the Force of their Affections, and not their Judging Faculty: This Man we like, his Conversation is agreeable, his Comportment is genteel, his Air is modish, he is obliging, and in short we love the Person; but let him be thoroughly search'd, his Business has been to study Men, not the dead Letter: Thus sometimes so high runs Affection, we even believe the Person Ignorant, but Charity and Love cover his Defects: I crave no Man's Affection, in order to entrap him; this little Paper-Book I have design'd as a Present, is the Result of a *continued Success for near a quarter of a Century*, in the Cure of the *Venerereal Disease*, in its whole Extent.

I fancy it may be no great Honour to assume to myself *an Air of Knowledge* in this Distemper, because the Weakest of Mortals may in that time acquire to himself a competent Observation on the com-

mon

mon Symptoms, when his Application has been bounded and limited to that Distemper chiefly. Let my Knowledge be to what Degree it can; such has been my Case, that I have confined myself to the Consideration of this Disease mostly, have made Observations suitable to the time I have practised; and I think I have built upon what I have read, a large Structure, and will be bold to say, (without a Breach of Modesty) *If Authors have discovered no more of this Disease than what they have publish'd, I can range somewhat farther than they have, and without much Trouble to myself.* By the Word *Authors*, I abstract from *Bills of Fare*, such as the *Practical Scheme*, a Rhapsody of bold Promises, incoherent (and sandy) Matter, mask'd under the fulsome Pretext of following a Philosophy, I am well apprized, the Scribbler has never enter'd the Threshold of.

The Publick may here expect I should descend to Particulars they have never been told of; so I could; but my Affair at present is, an Appeal to the World how fairly I have dealt with them in the Publications I have made; and whether I am under the Incapacity some vile de-

signing Empiricks (for so I must call such of my Adversaries, as I have hitherto spurn'd, who have never been dignified with the Cap) have branded all their Fellow-Advertisers with, for the sake of Grist.

I think it will be needless to let the World into the Secret of the Manner of Infection; this would be to trifle like the *Scheme-maker*; who, in his Pamphlet, pretends to *clinch that Nail, which others had but touch'd*. My Design is to relate Facts I am well assured of, confirm'd with Truth, ripen'd by Experience into a *certain Method*, which I am sure is far from smelling of the Quack. I need no Attestation to what I shall advance, nor is it necessary to court any *Chamberlen* for what I affirm; nor do I think it reasonable, any Gentleman of a Faculty should prostitute his Name to my Account; nor do I design to work by Collusion: No Sirs, I know no Necessity I am under for such Craft.

As soon then as a Person has convers'd with any one Infected, they commence also Unfortunate; the Infection being Local, the Part of Contact is the Seat of

of the Disease at first, and by Neglect is daily more propagated;

— Unless strong Nature still
Exerts itself, and then throws off the Ill.

But how seldom this happens in our Isle, I leave it to any indifferently skill'd to pronounce for me.

The Combatants untainted suffer by the Friction; the Torch is kindled at the Fire, which costs much Pains to extinguish. *ch*

If the *Vagina* is infected with Ulcers, their Linnen must be stain'd Greenish or Yellowish; and they scarce can bear the Coition without a wry Brow; as for the Males, they also are easily discover'd, if warily ey'd; and 'twould be amazing to me, to find so many sad Examples, if Passion did not blind our Conscience and our Reason. *I cou'd give Instances how to discover any Degree of Infection, and consequently how to guard Mortals from it; Nay, how to know whether Artifice were not used, to patch up a Mistress for the Battle; and I do promise it to my Patients, but think not fit to publish it here. I shall in short give a Description*

scription how a Patient may know his Degree of Infection, and how reasonable it may be for him to make a serious Application in Season.

A Clap is discover'd from the following Signs ; a Pain and Scalding whilst they make Water ; Matter of various Colours runs out continually ; there is a Pain upon squeezing the Part ; there's an Erection often in a Day ; Ulcers in the *Urethra* ; the *Penis* swells, is crooked especially upon Erection ; they cannot stand close with their Thighs, because of the Pain of the *Penis* ; Ulcers often seize on the *Glans* or *Prepuce* ; all these Symptoms are Attendants upon an infectious Copulation : But whether this Matter Infecting be an *Acid* or an *Alkali*, I think is scarce worth while to enquire into, *much less is it to the Purpose to affirm with the Garway Scheme-Maker, Mr. Tanner, that an Alkali has changed its Nature into Acid*, which is a Leap Principles (if he thinks them such) never take, and a Piece of Philosophy, which is neither new nor old, and consequently not learnt Abroad nor at Home : I look upon this Quality to be *Acrimonious*, because we do indeed find many convincing Proofs of it ; but to
what

what *Species* of Acrimony 'tis referrible; I can tell this *Divine* 'tis not his Province to enquire into; nor is it known, but from some Consequences, which are best judged of, from an Experience he is not Master of.

When the Infected has sat patiently down under his Misfortune for some time, which they often do, if their Scalding of Urine or *Dysury* be moderate; the Infection steals upon them, and produces other Symptoms about the Parts first charged with the venomous Particles; so that now not only the *Urethra*, the *Glans*, the *Prepuce*, and the *Penis*, are affected, but also the *Prostate Glands*, the *Gallus Gallinaceus*, the *Testicles*, the *preparing Vessels*, the *Groin*, and the *Anus*, begin to suffer by their Proximity or Nearness, as will appear anon: For how otherwise happens it, that the Patients by a supine Neglect sometimes never recover from a *Gleet* all their Lives after? I have endeavour'd in vain to cure *Gleets* of 20 Years standing, which I am now wiser than to attempt when I have examin'd them, as Experience has taught me to do; and know them by a certain Rule I have, to distinguish, whether they are really incurable; which

which however, in others, I can cure, tho' of any Date.

A *Phymosis* and *Paraphymosis*, are Symptoms on the Prepuce; in the first, the Fore-Skin is so tumid, that it won't be brought behind the Nut; in the latter, it can't be brought forwards to cover the Nut; they are mostly watery Tumours, and call'd *Crystallines*, tho' I have seen them of another Species, and inclinable to a *Scirrhus*, particularly by Mismanagement.

I think no one need be told, that the *Testicles* are swell'd; but for their Inflammation we know it by a Tumour there, and a throbbing Pain, daily increasing till it turns into an Imposthume (if the Patient be foolish and wilful.)

The *Anus* is often beset with Warts or other Scirrhus or Cancerous Tumours, as well as the *Glans* is with *Shankers*, and which are equally troublesome and dangerous.

The *Groin* is attack'd with *Buboes*, which are a Critical Tumour and Inflammation, which tends often, or ought so to do, to an Abscess, and by breaking, carries off Part of the Venom out of the Body, and sometimes the Whole, if artfully managed. We

We have seen the Patients troubled with the *Hernia Varicosa*, where the Vessels are crowded with Humours, and their Substance is thicken'd and harden'd sometimes so much, that there is no possibility of reducing them to their usual size by the nicest Management; for they will, all their Life after, have these Vessels more turgid than usual.

As soon as the Venom has left the Secret Parts, and is lick'd up into the Blood-Vessels, then it Circulates along with the Blood into all the Parts of the Body, and produces every Symptom producible by a vitiated Blood, such are Pains, Pustules, Ulcers, Itchings, Tettors, &c. for as the Acrimony, the Blood is tainted withall, makes the *Globules* of a size, which do not, in circulating, yield as it ought to do, for want of a due Elasticity, they are apt to stick close to the little Arteries or Fibres, which they cannot pass thro'; and thus, according to their degree of Acrimony, they either give us troublesome Sensations, which are often, in the beginning, not lasting; or at other times they are deeply engaged in the *Capillaries*, and the Blood being very much tainted or

C

charged

charged with Salts, Ulcers and such Symptoms are produced.

At last, when the Venom has been a long Sojourner in the Fluids, it begins to affect the Solids, and particularly the *Nerves* and *Bones*. This is a dismal Scene indeed, and many a Bill of Mortality is hid under the Name of a gentle Decay, and a Consumption, which had its Beginning in the Stews. Now *Convulsions*, *Consumptions*, *Palsies*, *Apoplexies*, then *Nodes*, *Caries*, *Spinæ Ventosæ*, the Falling of the *Os Palati*, and the Nose, and such melancholy Scenes are carried on; and why all these and more, but because now we are crush'd with the Quantity of the Poison, as well as the Quality of it? for there is as much difference between this last Stage and the first, as there is between the Effects of a Pound of diluted *Aqua-fortis*, and two Pounds of the most concentrated Spirit of this same Acid, where the first may even be brought down to a degree of being swallow'd, whereas the latter destroys in a small Quantity: I say not this to declare my Sentiments on the *Species* of Acrimony, but on the difference of Quantity and Quality. To set about to explain to my Reader, the manner

(II)

manner how those Accidents come on; would be perhaps to talk like a *Scholar* more than a *Practitioner*; but my Aim is rather to be accounted the latter, and I cannot tell whether any one who follows this Business, has better Pretensions to it than myself, because the Numbers I have had under my Care, have made me endeavour at proper Methods to relieve them and support myself, and I thank God I have effected Both: *I am sure then, I have no occasion, like the Scheme-Maker, in his Directions, to desire any to draw up an Advertisement, and say unknown to the Author, and they shall be refunded the Price of the Advertisement, and shall have a Guinea given for a Pair of Gloves for so doing, because this is an Effrontery not to be equall'd: For what poor Wretch having bought a dear Remedy, would not be glad to be refunded his lost Money at any rate? And this is the Reason why so many Certificates appear in favour (as one would imagine) of the Specifick Remedy, when in Truth they are only Claims put in, to recover their Money sunk in an useless Remedy, so that these Poor Miscreants (for such these Claimants generally are) are repaid for Hush-Money and*

C 2

gross

gross Impositions: Nay, we have known it advertised, that such an one (who had been as dead as *Julius Cæsar* for above half a Year before) was recover'd by, &c. *Populus vult Decipi, Decipiatur.*

But the Readers will be pleas'd to find here in the following Chapter, most of the Symptoms in such Order as they invade them, that they may at one View know their Condition, and apply seriously for their Recovery.

C H A P. II.

Of the Symptoms.

FIRST then, *A Clap* or *Gonorrhœa Virulenta*, which the *French* call *Chaupe-pisse*, has generally the vast Heat of Urine attending it: I need not tell my Reader, that Ulcers in the whole Passage sometimes cannot bear the sharp Urine gliding over it, and grating it, and therefore till these Ulcers are some way benumm'd or cur'd, we find this Symptom seldom ceases entirely.

Shankers are hard and callous Ulcers on the *Glans*, or *Prepuce*, or both; which are sometimes so large as to equal a Chesnut,
and

and give the Operator and Patient much Trouble, for that they must sometime be even cut away ; I shall not say more here, only refer you to what I shall say below on them.

Bubo's, they are Inflammations on the *Groin* ; 'tis a sort of an After-game, and a piece of Good-luck ; for 'tis much better this Part should be seiz'd than the Internal ones, because by Impostumating the Humour is in great Measure thrown out this way, which it could not, if it seiz'd on the *Viscera*.

Inflam'd Testicles ; all Tumours are rais'd, because more is brought to a Part than can be reconvey'd, and therefore when I name an Inflammation, I suppose some sort of Obstruction ; and if any one throws into a *Distractile Syphon* a quantity of Liquor by a Syringe, you will see it rise and settle ; Why swells it, but because the Part is drawn up by the quantity not passing on hastily enough ? And why settles it, but because now it passes freely on ?

Caruncles are known by pissing in a double Stream, or an Obstruction of making

king Water; they are fleshy Excreescences in the *Urethra* (I have sometimes known them at the Neck of the Bladder, and this is dangerous) arising from the ulcerated Parts turning *Fungous*, and at last this *Fungus* (from a peculiar Acrimony in the Humours) becomes even Scirrhus or Cancerous.

Stranguries are occasion'd by the Salts of the Urine pricking the ulcerated Parts, and thus corrugating them, and exasperating them; and as a sharp Instrument fails not to gall and irritate the Part 'tis fixt in; this Humour, in like manner, according to its Figure and Durity, fixes in some Corner of the ulcerated Part, and there galls till it is obtunded by the *Mucus* spew'd out of the *Glands* of the Urinary Passage. *Dysuries* and *Stranguries* differ by Degrees only, but both are a Sharpness and Heat of Urine.

Nocturnal Pains arise from the Heat of the Bed, which occasions a brisker Motion of the Fluids around the Body, and particularly on the Surface; if the Salts (which by this Heat are melted) be gentle, then such only feel a Tingling and Uneasiness

ness on the Surface of the Skin; but if they are very Sharp and Corrosive, instead of Tingling, they Pinch us prodigiously, and bring on Pains.

Erosions of the Bones of the Palate; when the Humours have been suffer'd to lodge for a long space of time, without due Care, what Wonder if they Corrode the Parts? for as this Ferment is of such a Nature, as every Day to grow more Corrosive than other, we must naturally conclude, the longer it lodges on any Part, the more Mischief it does; why then should we wonder at such a Disfiguration?

Nodes are hard Tumours on the Bones; however, there are degrees of them; for when they begin, they are softish, and are then term'd *Gumma's*; and, in the Head, *Talpa's* or *Topinaria's*; but when confirm'd, they are *Nodes* and *Exostoses*; they arise from the Lodgment of Humours on the Bones or near them, because some of these Tumours seem at first to be *Cystical*, and others seem to, and really do, grow on the Bones.

Phymosis, Paraphymosis ; I have already taken Notice, that these are Faults on the *Prepuce*, and if the Patient's *Penis* is so fram'd, as always to be cover'd or uncover'd, these Accidents seize them, for the Symptom is but a Tumour diversify'd by this Structure.

Cordee, is a *French* Word, signifying a *String* or *Cord* ; and this which they call *Chau-de-pisse Cordee*, is a Clap with an Inflammation on the *Penis* ; but we never take it in any other Sense, than when the *Frænum* is drawn downwards, and the Erection, which is Troublesome at this time, Cords the *Penis* around, and on the side of the *Frænum*, with exquisite Pain ; so that as Erection is unavoidable, from numerous Causes and Irritations, therefore is also the Pain following it.

Scabs or *Blotches* ; these Eruptions come about from the Humours stopt somewhere ; and as an Acrimony may be wrapt up in gross Particles, so this Viscidity occasions an Impediment to the Circulation in the small Vessels (which we call *Capillaries*) ; when they have rested here some time, then their Acrimony begins to exert itself, and

and gradually inflames, throbs, and at last throws itself into the Surface of the Skin, in Blotches and Scabs.

Disorders from the Blood, and nervous Disorders; when the Venom has deserted the *Genitalia*, it creeps gradually and insensibly into our Vessels, and then corrupts all our Juices, and changes them into *Caustical ones*; and as the Blood soon corrupts the Spirits, so bad Blood soon hurries on bad Spirits; therefore when the Blood is tainted, Crowds of Diseases attend a Patient thus unfortunate, and they every Day more than other begin to look Pale and grow Lean, because Nutrition is not rightly perform'd; for how shou'd a Body be nourish'd with Particles so *keen-edg'd*? How can they be apply'd with Advantage, when they are utter Enemies to it? How can they grow without Lodging there firmly? and if they do lodge, instead of nourishing, they pare them off, and even grate the very Bowels unmercifully. Thus Diseases grow up instead of Nutriment, and at last, *jam seges est ubi Troja fuit*; nothing but Destruction and Death attend them: I shrink at the Thoughts of the innume-
D
rable

rable Disasters springing up from the Blood tainted ; but when I consider the Venom deeper sunk, and into the Nerves, I am yet more in Concern for such Neglects ; nay, and I must here acquaint my Reader that 'tis not the poor Patients are always only to be blam'd for these disastrous Cases ; for I have known many who have run the Gauntlet of Physick under Ignorant Hands, who have locked the Door, and have suffer'd the Thief to ravage within ; or even have sometimes overdone the Matter, and ignorantly thrown their Patients into Nervous Distempers :

Lastly, I must observe to you, that tho' these are the *Common Symptoms*, yet they are far from being the Complement, since Defluxions on the Throat, Coughs, Night-sweats, Lassitudes, Pains of the Back, Leanness, Consumptions, Fissures any where, Falling off of the Nails, Cruetiness on the Skin, *Polypus's*, Piles, a cancerous Thrush, Tetters on the Privities, Melancholies, Madnesses ; the *Alopecia* or Falling off of the Hair, *Ficus*, *Condylomata*, *Mariscæ* on the *Anus* and its Verge ; nay, we have seen some Hypochondriacal, others Phrenetick, we have often observ'd *Hæcticks*,
Vertigo's,

Vertigo's, Dropsies, Deafness, Blindness, Palsies, *Epilepsies*, all sorts of Breakings out, *Dysenteries*, Fluxes, *Diabetes*; and in short there is hardly any Distemper, which this malignant and acrimonious Humour does not bring on; and the Reason I think is pretty plain, because all these Distempers are only some Share or Parcel of this Humour, fixt on some one or more of the *Viscera* or Parts, which settling there, frets and exasperates the *Parenchyma* of the Part seized, and either raises Exulcerations, Evacuations, Commotions, Tumours, Eruptions, *Caries*, and many such Disorders; or its *Tenacity* blocks up the Passages, and then it raises all Disorders which take their Rise from Obstructions; and then the Parts are not irradiated by the Spirits, and then follow Fallings off of the Hair, Palsies, *Gutta Serena's*, and thousands of other Distempers, which I neither am at Leisure to nominate, nor cou'd they be comprehended within a moderate Compass, *Mille modis morimur.*

C H A P. III.

Of the Prognosticks.

THAT such whose Hands this little Pamphlet may fall into, may conceive their Disorder somewhat more readily, I shall annex some short Prognosticks on their Condition.

As to such who are seiz'd with the various Symptoms of a *Gonorrhœa*, or other Disorders about the *Genitals*; unless their Blood have been violently tainted before with Sharp Humours; if the Disorder be fresh and newly received, they recover with good Management very readily; and I cannot but be surprized to meet with so many in this City, who have labour'd under common Symptoms, easily to be remedied; and yet such have been their Misfortune, that they have stalk'd thro' some Courses of Physick, they have taken *Pills*, *Bolus's* and *Electuaries*, *Elixirs*, *Specificks*, and the Lord knows what, to no manner of purpose, but to flounder them deeper in the Mud; and in short, they have by these promising Medicines, been seemingly cured of their *Clap*, and have

have barter'd it for a *Pox*. This I speak upon Experience; and I must frankly own, I know not how it should fall out otherwise, if we speak of such Medicines as are commonly disposed of at *Toyshops*; because the Patient is given to understand his Case by a false Glimmer, he proceeds by *stated Directions*, the *Boot is ready made*, and it must fit every Man's Leg; now how Ridiculous this Procedure is, will be evident upon taking a View of one Case I shall remark: Some People will have *Shankers* in a confirm'd *Pox*, and which the common Methods of *Turpentine and Mercury* mention'd by Doctor *Cockburn*, will relieve indeed; but your Case becomes Desperate thereby; for the common Operator (I talk not of Artists) will glory of a Victory, when his Enemy has retreated; whereas in Truth his Disappearance is for no other End but to proceed by Sap, and Undermine the Foundation; for the Blood being charg'd with a large stock of Sharp and Corroding Humours, enters the Bones, and lurks in them, and either produces *Caries*, *Spina Ventosa*, or *Nodes*: and then to their Cost, they take hasty Measures, and come to the Grand Cure: However, if it be an
old

old *Gonorrhœa*, or the Blood be much tainted, (as it is in some *Scorbutick Persons*) then indeed more than ordinary Care is required, and the Patient must be narrowly look'd after, and the Cure varies according to the Degree ; which it is impossible to describe, and as impossible to be relieved by Medicines prepared by *Bopeep Doctors*, who never appear, nor are Solicitous about the Matter, so long as their *Specificks* sell well; and who, if they did appear, know nothing of the Case, unless perhaps what is in their Pamphlets, which they have rifled *Blegny*, *Cockburn*, or some Writer or *Pamphleteer* for ; such are the Reverse of what is requir'd, for instead of knowing more than their Writings contain, they know less, and even nothing of the Matter, and therefore lie conceal'd ; such Patients then must appear at the Bar, must take the Physician or Surgeon as Judges in the Case, must by their Assistance prove the Degree of Damages, and the Assailant must be oblig'd to quit Costs ; in short, they must apply to their Deliverer seriously, and must follow his Directions obsequiously.

If the first Degree of this Venom requires such an exquisite Care, what must the more rooted Degrees of it demand? Surely double and treble. I don't know that the Husbandman wou'd trust his Brutes to the Hazard of a Receipt, but the Experienc'd Cow-Doctor must be call'd in to remedy the Disease; and how it comes that we trust to those Toy-shop *Medicasters*, who pretend to Receipts only (as many there be in this City) is amazing! I must then observe to you, that if in this degree the Excretory Ducts of the *Prostatæ* (or *Glands* in the Urinary Passage which spew out upon Occasion, a glutinous, colourless Substance) are Eroded or Eaten away by the Acrimony of the Humours; or also, if farther, the Mouths of the *Vesiculæ Seminales* (or long Tortuous Membranes which hold the true Seed) are gnawn by this same Humour; then there remains a perpetual *Flux*, and sometimes 'tis so large as to evacuate large Quantities, and emaciate the Patient, and brings on the *Tabes Dorsalis*, and kills them. However, we know not how to remedy these Evils, and therefore they lead an uncomfortable Life, because they are incurable; we
have

have seen such a Case in the Dissection of an executed Person: In the same manner is it with Women whose *Lacunæ* are eroded; for then whatever *Ichor* arrives at their Mouths, is thrown out, and this cannot be remedied, as we have known some who have undergone several Salivations for this purpose, without any Advantage; and if the Undertaker had been skilful or honest, there wou'd have been no need to have treated these unhappy Mortals so roughly, since the Disorder was Local, and if Application wou'd not succeed, nothing wou'd.

Some Symptoms indeed are wholesome; so a *Bubo* appearing, if it suppurate, the Venom is eradicated, and the Patient recovers with little ado; nay, and sometimes a *Gonorrhœa* runs off in warmer Climes, but seldom or never with us in these cold Climates.

Where the Blood is tainted, more Care is to be taken of this Leaven; for if neglected, the Disease grows apace, and enters the solid Parts, and destroys us: Hence due Regard had to the Taint (of what *Species* cannot be determin'd, but by Sight of the Patient, by proper and *Specific Remedies*, the Humour is either

corrected, or else thrown off by proper Emunctories, and the Patient may be relieved in a Month's time with Safety, Privacy and Pleasure.

Where the last Degree is, then any one, the least skill'd, may know the Fate of these Unfortunates; for what Trouble attends not rotten Bones, some of which are Curable, others not at all? For such, which are hollow, and contain a *Medullar* Substance, will, with Time and Care, exfoliate and be cured; but if the *porous Bones* are tainted (unless very superficially so) such as the *Rotula*, the *Patella*, the *Articulations*, the *Os Calcaneum*, and those Spungy Bones thereabouts, the *Skull*, and in short such Bones as are *Cellular*; How can we remedy them?

No, ye Unfortunate, deceive not yourselves with vain and promising Airs, the *Operators* flatter ye with; all this is *Grimace*, and poor Policy, levell'd at enriching themselves with your Spoil; but if you applied in Rags to them, their true Judgment (if they have any) wou'd appear.

C H A P. III.

Of the Cure.

IT would be in vain to split this Disease into so many trifling Divisions, and thus to make the Cure of it appear intricate; for in Truth, the Parts are only affected around the Genitals, or the Juices and the Solids are also tainted; so that whoever considers what I have said, will soon be Master of the Methods.

When it seizes in the form of a *Gonorrhœa*, the Methods of Cure are the following; the Ulcer of the *Urethra* indicates *Deterfion*, and *Cleansing*; when this is sufficiently done, we must incarn; or if this be look'd on as too tedious, we must cicatrize: But I look upon it as necessary to be somewhat slow in this last Indication; and tho' this Caution has been slighted by many here, yet how many Complaints do we daily meet with in this City, for want of such a piece of Justice? I can't but acknowledge there are short Methods of Curing, and easier than what we ordinarily find used by many

many unskilful Men; but as each Man seems to glory in his own Skill in this Point, I believe it wou'd be in vain to endeavour to persuade some Men to proceed in a manner more Christian than they do: If they wou'd obey me, I do assure them, I wou'd avoid all dangerous Proceedings: I wou'd not with one *use Sublimate Water* internally, and chouse the too Credulous out of their Money, (for so I must call selling *a Pint of this Water for a Guinea*) and at the same time endanger their Persons; for who does not know that *Sublimate* is rank Poison? I only desire the Reader wou'd consult the most learned Dr. *Mead* on Poisons upon this Head, and see what Consequences attend the giving of it internally; and I believe I shall terrifie all honest Men from administering it, and such as value their Lives from taking it; and that what is advanced by me here, is not said *Gratis*, or out of Envy, the Reader shall be convinc'd of, by his Senses, before I leave this Discourse. Nor wou'd I with others give *Mercurius Vitæ*, *Green Precipitate*, and many more such dangerous Medicines daily too much used in this Town; for in Truth, there is no

E 2

Necessity,

Necessity, that Persons to be cured of one Evil should be thrown headlong into others, equally hazardous; and therefore I avoid (as much as in me lies) all such *Devious* Methods: These are the *Harsh* Methods used in Town; and I should be sorry that Men of Learning, and supposed Knowledge should be found Guilty of what I condemn; I wish they may not, for their Patients sakes as well as their own; they must expect the fatal Consequences which follow such Usage, and which they need not be advertised of, as knowing them as well as myself.

It would be too frivolous to tell the World of giving *Catharticks*, such as *Rosin of Jalap*, *Mercurius Dulcis*, *Pilula Cochiae*, *Rudii*, *Ruffi*, *Rosin of Scammony*, or *Guaiacum*, and such like; it would be trifling to tell you, that *Balsams of Capi-vi*, *Peru*, of *Chili*, of *Gilead*, are useful to cleanse the ulcerated Part, or that *Tinctures* made of these *Rosins* or *Balsams*, are much used by some as wonderful *Secrets* to cure and chouse the *Vulgar* withall; I shall not trouble my Reader to descant upon *Os Sepiae*, *Crocus Martis astringens*, *Sal Martis*, *Saccharum Saturni*,

Saturni, Oleum Martis per deliquium, boil'd Turpentine, some fashionable Jellies, which are fam'd for the compleating the Cure; nor shall I mention the Injections of *Mercurius Dulcis*, with *Mel Rosarum* and *Plantane Water*, nor of *Decoctions of Roses, Balaustines, Vitriol, Saccharum Saturni*, nor such like; because they are to be met with in every Writer on this Distemper: But I shall frankly own some have been modest, but many more have exceeded all Bounds on this Head; I shall for my part study to say so little on this Point, that may offend Modesty, or prove an *Incentive*, that I hope I shall have nothing to answer for, either to a *Superior Being*, or to any Court of Judicature; and I wish some, who otherwise want not Parts enough to distinguish themselves, wou'd avoid this Ungentleman, as well as Unchristian Demeanour. But *Quo semel est imbuta Recens servabit odorem Testa diu.*

As for *Shankers*, I shall not mention how some use *Cathereticks*, in order to eradicate them along with the general Methods to keep us safe. I know in *Caruncles*, the common Methods are Eradication by *Cathereticks on Candles*;
Bubo's

Bubo's we all know are treated with Suppurative Pultises or Plaisters, or the Lancet is at last made use of: We know that Heat of Urine is allay'd by *Mucilages*, by *Sal Prunellæ*, by Opiates, and other Methods of Cure. I need not trouble my Reader to inculcate to him, that *Cor-dees* are alleviated by *Anodyne Fodus's* or Cataplasms: I shall, I say, lay aside all these Considerations, they having been canvassed by all Writers even to a Loathing: But I shall make the Reader observe, that my Method is easie and safe, quick and certain; and though I can brag as well as others of my *Electuary* and its Salutiferous Effects; because I have try'd it above these twenty Years successfully; yet I am not altogether so vain nor empirical as to tell the World this Medicine does never fail; only I shall inform you and desire you to give an attentive Ear to what I am about to say, *That if I manage this Electuarium Mirabile myself, I will give any Person who tries it, double the Value, if it ever fail to cure the first Degree of Infection*: And as for the rest, I do suppose they will apply, otherwise I do faithfully assure them, 'tis hardly possible for them to recover truly; for some
unfor-

unfortunate Reliques will sooner or later grasp them too close ever to be rid of their Misfortune, unless by a skilful Hand. I would then have my Readers to observe, that what is possible to be done by one Medicine, this *Electuary* will effect; it evacuates the Humours gently; it revulses from the Part affected, and draws it off; it obtunds the acrimonious Humour; it destroys the Venom in Bud, and all this with Ease and Safety. But as every one cries up his own Secret and *Nostrum*, 'tis natural for them to decry other Mens, and therefore has this undergone that Fate; but how unjustly, appears, because it has surviv'd all Envy, and will continue so to do; and so it is with all excellent things: If they are Good, nothing will sink their Credit; if they are Bad, nothing will make them continue.

In case the Venom has tainted the Blood, and begins to produce such Symptoms as I have already nam'd; an easy Matter will not complete the Cure; for then we must have Recourse to more potent Remedies, either to *evacuate roundly*, or to *alter strongly*; and even this Method will not answer, without regard had to the

the Parts too much injur'd by the Venom deep sunk into them.

However, my Reader must not misapprehend me by saying we must cure by *strong Remedies*; for I can understand the Word *strong* in no other Sense than this, to wit, that the Cure must be proportion'd to the quantity of Poison in our Veins, and Strength in our Patients; and if the *former* be in such a Quantity as cannot be eradicated without exhausting the *latter*; who does not see the Danger? However, even then, there are certain Ways and Means unknown to common Managers, to be made use of, in order to retrieve the Patients, as I may say *Invitâ Minervâ*; which I know myself under no Obligation to discover; only such as fall into my Management, and under my Care, will experience even in this Desperate Case, Safety and Comfort, not to be met with from many. Some will expect me in this Place to make Excursions, and to discourse to them of the Method of Cure by *Diaphoreticks*; I know in Foreign Countries, they are very fond of this Method of Cure; and in the *Indies* from whence we received this venomous Disease, they entirely depend on this Method; nay,

nay, and even in this Town some boast
 of their Royal Decoctions, or *Diet Drinks*,
 and order them to be taken plentifully,
 and religiously confine you to Roast Meat
 and dry Victuals, and poor Fare at Night,
 and order their Drinks to be swallow'd
 down in such a plentiful Manner, that
 they either evaporate your Blood to a
 Cinder and a *Caput Mortuum*, or at least
 endanger a *Fever*; we hear of all that
 have the good hap to escape; but who
 sink? they are perfectly hush in that.
 Others believe it necessary in these last
 Extremities, to have recourse to violent
 Vomits, and never think the Disease'd
 can be too roughly treated for the sake of
 the Disease; *Festina lentè* is my *Motto*,
 I am for making no more haste than good
 Speed; for 'tis very usual to hear these
 Sparks murder at once the *Disease* and the
Diseased; I wou'd indeed murder the
 Disease, and can do't, but they kill two
 Birds with one Stone.

I am not a little surprized to find some
 of Opinion, that *Salivations* are little to
 the purpose, unless rais'd by *Uction*,
 and unless they spit two or three Quarts
 in a Day! *Quisque sensu suo abundet*; I
 shall not endeavour to dispossess these

Gentlemen of the good Opinion they have of themselves, for I know no body that loves to be contradicted; but I shall only say, I act otherwise, and gain my point, and if they always do so, I wish them much Joy; I shou'd not submit myself to such a rude Management, neither shall my Patients be treated so roughly. The Disease does not vanish, nor is it reputed to do so, unless the *Symptoms disappear*, and whenever they do, for a small space of time, we need go no farther; (what is done over and above, is at the Expence of their Lives or Spirits); for what will do this, will leave a small Relique at most, which may be otherwise handled by a Person moderately skill'd; and in this I appeal to all such as practise Physick or Surgery.

I don't know that *Diureticks* will avail at all in this rooted Degree, because they are too weak for the Disease, and besides, Dr. *Friend* has lately observ'd in his Treatise of Fevers, that they seldom answer our Ends, saying, p. 154. *Ita ut hodie hæc Medicinæ pars quæ ad urinas provocandas pertinet, sit omnium maxime manca.*

Some

Some I know there are, that pretend to evacuate by *Saliva* for two or three Hours in a Day, and no more; and thus are for carrying off, by Degrees, the venomous Particles out of the Blood; and if so, why may not this be done by *Tobacco* as well as *Mercury*? For in such a Case these enter not the Blood: But this is bare Shuffle and Pretence, and if they neglect at the same time other advantageous Methods, 'tis a Bite upon their Patients.

In short, I shall only add this one Observation, which may lead a skilful Person through the whole Range of the Disease, and it is this, *That in what manner soever the Disease has been found to be critically carried off in warmer Countries, we may lawfully conclude that Medicines which are found by Experience to force this same Separation by Art, will do the same Feats;* and as it has been found that the *Indians* did it by Sweating (in the Sun, Bagnio's, or by any other means) so we find in *England* that Sweating goes a great way to compleat the Work; as it has been found that Stools do carry off this Distemper, so may we imitate and ape Nature, and order *Catharticks* to carry off

the Load ; after which, however a tedious Course ought to back this Method in order to correct the Relicks, lest it sprout again. How the Salivation was found to cure this Disease, is too late an Invention to be forgot, and therefore I shall proceed.

As for the Symptoms which retain to the several Degrees of this virulent Disease, it behoves a Physician to follow the easiest and surest Methods to root them soon out ; and as I have acquired by Experience several short Methods to effect this, I shall give my Reader to understand their Names and Uses ; and I shall leave it to the Patient to let the World know, how truly they are *Nostrums* and *Specificks in their kind*.

Electuarius Mirabile ; or, the *Admirable Electuary*. I have already spoke of the Vertues of this Electuary ; and as too much cannot be said in its Praise, the Reader must excuse a little Excursion on a favourite Medicine ; *Favourite*, because I admire its Efficacy and Palatableness : To be pleasant and grateful to the Taste only, wou'd be a small Recommendation indeed ; but when I say 'tis successful

ful in the first Degree of this Disease, and seldom, if ever, fails of answering its Ends, as thousands can sufficiently testify; I think I need not add much farther, than to advise the Unfortunate to consult their Safety, in having speedy recourse to such an admirable Remedy in time.

Pilulæ Antivenereæ, or my *Antivenereal Pills*. I never found it advisable to proceed to stronger Medicines, when I was sure weaker wou'd serve the turn; nor *vice versâ*, is it convenient to dally with weak ones, where stronger are plainly required; when therefore People have neglected themselves, or have been treated ignorantly till their Case becomes *Desperate*, I have recourse to these admirable Pills and Powder following, which together will not fail to root out the very minuteſt Atoms of the Poison with certainty and safety, the Truth of which (upon Trial) the afflicted will soon be convinced of; as many I have already had under my Hands, have largely experienced.

Pulvis Specificus; or, my *Specifick Powder*. This Powder is an Alterative, and
great

great Sweetner of the Blood and Juices, corrects efficaciously and suddenly all Taints proceeding from this Poison, and indeed is almost universal in its Vertues, as several Physicians, who however use it too sparingly, can testify in their Practice; but my Method of using it being different to theirs, I reap greater Benefit by it in proportion; as daily Experience sufficiently proves.

Electuarium Balsamicum; or my *Balsamick Electuary*. This is a Medicine which is extreamly cleansing and healing; therefore particularly adapted to Gleets, after the Cure of the Venom; for it often happens, that after all the Venom is carried off, yet the Vessels are not closed, tho' good and wholesome Methods have been used; then this *Electuary*, with my *Balsamick Pills*, will effectually succeed; as also in all Gleets and Seminal Weaknesses, whether occasion'd from ill cured *Claps*, Self-Pollutions or other Disorders; if neither the *Veru montanum*, or the Mouths of the Excretory Ducts of the *Parastatæ* be quite eaten away; for then 'tis impossible to be done, because 'tis impossible to frame new Parts; *Experto Crede.*
Aqua

Aqua Carcinomatosa ; or, the *Water for Shankers* ; this Water is design'd chiefly for *Shankers*, to eradicate them gently, and yet not in such a manner that they shall retreat into the Blood, as is the misfortune of many Medicines of this kind ; as for *Directions for its Use*, I must beg that the Parties who may be concern'd, will not expect any here, for I don't think it safe to give general *Directions*, but will expect to see and then direct ; and indeed I would be glad to know, how any Patient can be Judge of the Degree of his Misfortune ; for this is the result of Experience and Practice only ; how many young Physicians are there, that know very well what is to be done with a Patient ; that is, they know what Remedy is to be used ; but how many of them are at a stand to give the sufficient Quantity, and to time it ? This is too evident, and is in Practice granted by the whole World, when they reject young Physicians (tho' Relations) for old ones, who they trust with their *Lives*, by reason of their Experience.

Emplastrum Bubonicum ; or, the *Plaster for Bubo's* ; the Part is shav'd, and this is applied,

applied, it draws the Part to a Head in a little time; so that 'tis easy to digest and perform all other Intentions afterwards; I need not cry this Plaister up, because I am sure of its Effects, which are quick, and certain, for otherwise the Venom might retreat into the Blood, and give the Operator a great deal of trouble, in obliging him to a long Course, which this Method wou'd soon accomplish.

Pulvis Anti-Dysuricus; or, the *Powder against Heat of Urine, (or Spirit.)* I have contrived this Medicine for the Palate, so that it may be given in Powder or Drops; 'tis one of the best Remedies known for this sharpness of Water, which is one of the most troublesome Symptoms that reigns in this Disease, *it relieves it by a sort of Incantment*, by allaying the Pungency of the Humour, and correcting it specifically; it may be taken in Wine, or any other Liquor which pleases the Patient best.

Emplastrum, and Unguentum Anti-Tophicum; or, the *Plaister and Unguent for Nodes*; these two Medicines will utterly extirpate or dissipate these Nodes, which,

if they be suffer'd to continue, they at last produce Caries of the Bones, and endanger loss of Life; the one is milder than the other, that if one should not operate, the other will effectually do it; because as it is sometimes more rooted than at another, weaker or stronger Remedies are required. When Patients have neglected themselves till Nodes seize them, they *must* apply seriously for their Recovery, or they are in the high Road to be lost.

Pulvis Extirpans; or, the Powder against a Caruncle; whatever is used against a Caruncle, ought so to be moderated, as not to inflame the *Urethra*; for so many fatal Symptoms might be brought on, that a total Suppression of Urine might ensue; this Powder is exactly proportion'd, and performs its Work gently, yet certainly.

Many other Medicines I have for other Symptoms, which are experienced over and over successfully, which I will not trouble my Reader withall at this Juncture; only I shall add, that *Method is the true Secret in Physick*; and whoever does

G

not

not study it, can have no Glory due to him; for nothing of Invention can issue from Ignorance, and Chance will never make a Man wise, no more than a World will be fram'd out of Atoms jumbled together by the same Chance.

It might be easy for me to proceed the ordinary Road, and bring in my *Vouchers* for the Cures I have done; but in the first place, I find none save *poor and worthless Folks*, who are willing to subscribe to this Method, and such I don't value; for depend upon it, I will not (like the *Scheme-Maker*.) hire any to own the Favours I have done them; and *for the Better sort*, they hate even the Sight of a Person who has done them Service in this kind, lest they shou'd discover, to their Prejudice, what they have too much in their Power; and indeed I should be of the same Opinion myself. And in the next place, this is done to persuade the World of the Goodness of a Medicine which they have good Reason to doubt of; and lastly, when these Gentlemen do us the favour to balance the Account of *such as Live and Die* under their Methods, then would it be reasonable for the World to follow them, according to their Deserts; but

but they foist an Advertisement now and then, what vast Advantage such and such have received by their *Specificks* and *Elixirs*; but not one Word of who died by the Neglect of better Remedies; *Culpas eorum tegit terra*. I shall then supersede all Discoveries of this kind, they being odious and fit for nothing but to bring Reproach upon the *Physician* and the poor Patient; and shall proceed to a short Account of *Specificks*, as they are called, and demonstrate to Mankind the Extortion and Folly of these Pretenders and Pretences; indeed I must own, they are properly *Specificks* in their Sense; for as each Remedy is worth what it brings in of Profit, so they who get the most Money for their *Specificks*, fancy themselves the wisest Men, and their *Specificks* must be very Valuable; but I can't stoop to this Sense of the Word, as will appear anon in the next Chapter,

C H A P. V.

Of *Specificks*, and the Abuse of the Name, and how it covers Ignorance and a Cheat.

I Can't but admire at the Assurance of some Men, who adapt the Signification of *Specificks* to their own Remedies, and who cry up a paltry Mixture for the finest Invention in the World; but my Wonder ceases, when I consider the Matter in a different Light, for Profit will make a Man of *no Honour* say and do any thing; and as Mr. Dryden says, *there is a certain sort of Impudence in Want.*

An Assertion or Authority in Physick, is like the Quotient in Division, no one is sure 'tis true, till it is proved; and I must in a particular manner let the World know, that as no Person who is a Party concern'd, ought to be admitted as a Witness in any Case, therefore Dr. *Ch-b-l-n* sharing in the Profits, is an improper Judge of the Vertues of his *Specifick*, because the World can expect nothing from him but *Elogiums*, and extravagant Expressions to
cry

cry up this *Specifick, Panacea*: (as he terms it, a learned Blunder!) But I may be answer'd, Why then so many Advertisements, if this were not a Real *Specifick*? In the first place, too much is proved by these Advertisers; for by them, it must be the Dew of Heaven! and this Gentleman has been stamp'd on purpose by the Almighty Power, to find out a Secret in a Profession he is entirely Ignorant of; (as a Reward, think we, for having dropt his Priestly Function?)

In the next place, I have already told my Reader that these Advertisements are hired at the Expence of a Guinea to the Advertiser, and at the Price of the Advertisement also, as his printed Directions, which I have by me, do testify.

As for a *Specifick*, I must acquaint my Reader, that I own no infinite Power in any natural Body, and therefore I cannot suppose any material Acts beyond its Sphere; and particularly an Evacuating Remedy has little Leisure to correct any Humours, but hurries them off in the Position they are under, and what comes first to the Glands of the Guts, is first evacuated, and according to the Violence more or less is emptied; therefore if this wonder-

wonderful *Specifick* stays in the Guts some few Hours, it is soon carried off again; and I must observe that it is Physically impossible, that five or six Grains of any Medicine can produce those wonderful Alterations in a Blood and Juices so tainted; and therefore this is a ridiculous, and an absolute *Chouse*, to delude poor Unfortunate People, and at once to empty their Bodies and their Purses.

But this Gentleman returns to his Argument, and tells me, *Sir! Remark this Necklace!* 'tis but a sorry one to look at! Nothing better for Teeth and Childbed-women! Sir, 'tis an *appended* Remedy! only acts by *Effluvia*! weighs but a few Grains itself, and yet, Sir, take my Word for't, it makes such Alterations in the Fluids, and such Impressions on the Solids, that as the worthy Dr. *Ch--l--n* says again, 'tis surprizing: I shall not now give myself any Trouble about this Affair, only if its *Effluvia* were so strong as to make a *Wind-Mill* go, I cou'd tell him how to make it turn to good Advantage; and I can, in the mean while, tell the World, that if he pleases to affirm it will do so, he has a Father to cite for his Affertion.

But

But I have design'd this Chapter to convince the World how they are imposed on by some designing Men.

First then I must inform you, that there is a *Specifick Water* made use of in Town for a *Gonorrhœa*: I had the Opportunity of some brought to me by a Patient, to make Trial of it; and accordingly, upon dropping the common Fluids into it, it plainly appear'd by the Precipitates to be *Mercury Sublimat*, dissolved in Water, the Danger of which (given internally) I have hinted at before.

Some time after, the *Scheme-Maker's Specifick Elixir* came to my Hands, in the same Manner (as it often has since, together with his *Specifick Eleſtuary*;) I judged it by the Taste to be some *Gum Guaiacum* and *Turpentine*, dissolv'd in Spirit of Wine; and accordingly I evaporated the Spirit of Wine by Flame, and found the Spirit to be strongly Rectify'd, for it evaporated entirely; and in the Spoon I found a Gum of the Colour of *Gum Guaiacum*, which, upon Taste, I found to be the very Gum; but, upon farther Trial, I believed I tasted *Camphire*

in it ; upon which I poured some of the Tincture into Water, and, upon pouring in of *Oil of Vitriol*, the Water grew terribly hot, and immediately at the top swam the *Camphire*, which tasted and smelt very strong.

The other *Grand Specifick* which he has made such a Noise about also, and to so little Purpose, (unless to chouse People out of their Money and Health) is nothing but some of the common Purgatives ; such as *Rosin of Jalap*, *Coloquintida*, and *Scammony*, together with *Mer. Dul.* made up with Balsam of *Capivi* ; and the Danger of giving Balsam *Capivi* in the beginning of the Cure of Claps, thousands, in this City, have experienc'd to their Ruin. But my Aim here is this ; Is it not a vile Imposition in these Men, to dispose of such common, useles, and dangerous Medicines at so extravagant a Rate ? For neither of these can cost above 6 *d.* or 8 *d.* at most, and a *Guinea* is paid for them at Toy-Shops or elsewhere ; upon which I say again, with the worthy *Dr. Chamberlen*, 'tis very surprizing.

But what is most surprizing to me, is, that Men of Sense and Worth should hazard

hazard their Lives and Fortunes, by buying Medicines at such Places and taking them, without knowing the *Author*, or where to apply to him upon the greatest Emergency?

Besides, is *Gum Guaiacum*, *Camphire* and *Spirit of Wine*, such a mighty Secret? or the Purgatives, before hinted, with *Balsam Capivi*? no, they are such common things, that a Boy of twelve Months Skill in *Pharmacy*, wou'd be ashamed to boast of.

As to my own *Nostrums*, I will give them up to any one that please to make what Trials they are minded to do upon them; they cannot find them out; but what is it to the Purpose, if they shou'd? I can only say, I depend upon Judgment, and will not scruple to alter my Medicines as I see occasion; for no Medicine can fit every Age and Constitution, nor is every Person that applies, alike affected; some have a *Bubo*, and a Running at the same time; others a *Bubo* only; some have a Sharpness of Water, and some have none; some have watry Gleets, others a Ropy one; some have *Shankers*, others a *Caruncle*; some have Strength enough, and Venom enough, to bear and require

H strong

strong and potent Remedies ; others have a great deal of Poison in their Veins, and little Strength ; and therefore I say 'tis Ridiculous and Preposterous to expose to sale an universal Remedy, which is supposed to be adjusted to every one's Age and Constitution ; or to pretend to cure this Disease by a Dose or two of any Medicine ; (tho' with a *Chymical Bolus*) as some who have more *Assurance than Skill*, frequently do.

Thus, *my dear Reader*, have I for thy sake, said much in a little Compass ; I have, it is true, decry'd some Mens Practices ; but I hope I have done it with good Manners and Decency ; and as Mens Lives and Health lie at Stake, I could hardly say less : I am not however saying, that I alone possess Secrets for this Disease, which other Men have not ; no, I admire and kiss the Feet of the *Learned Body of Physick* in this City ; I cannot enough praise the Industry of our *Body of Surgeons*, in this great *Metropolis*, who of late Years have outdone those *Monsieurs*, who carry too much Sway even yet ; but how deservedly they only know, who are skill'd in this Noble Art : Those Gentlemen being Regular in their
Pro-

Proceedings, I allow them all that they can request of me; and I hope they will also allow me some competency of Knowledge in this one Point; in which I have laboured so long with Success, as will appear to any considering Person; for 'tis odds, but he that applies to one Distemper only, shall discover somewhat Particular, which another who has not a Patient in a quarter of a Year, has no opportunity to do; and this, Dear Reader, I hope, to your Comfort, is my Case.

*From my House at the Golden-Ball
and Lamp in Bow-Church-
yard in Cheapside.*



P O S T.

P O S T S C R I P T.

IF after all that hath been said, there be any who thro' Bashfulness, or any other Reason, will not appear themselves, let such send a true State of their Case in Writing, and they shall have proper Remedies sent them; but no Letters will be answer'd, either in Town, or from the Country, unless such as bring Orders for Medicines; and Money is expected on the delivery of them.

F I N I S.

★ ★ ARMY ★ ★
MEDICAL LIBRARY
Cleveland Branch

Med. Hist.
WZ
261
C1855
1717

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE



NLM 00960512 4